



St James the Great • Birstall
Our Lady and St Nicholas • Wanlip



Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected, and free to be fully themselves.

29th December 2024 **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Welcome to you all



Large Print



St James



Crèche

St James



St James



Our Services this week

Service type is subject to change due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances

St James:

Sunday 29th

8:30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 2nd

9:30am Morning Prayer

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 29th

6pm 5th Sunday Special

What else is happening this week

Saturday 4th

10am-12noon Open Church St James

Please note:

Welcome Space

There not be any Welcome Space over Christmas and the New Year at St James - Starts again on 7th and 8th of January.

Open Church at Our Lady & St Nicholas

Our Lady & St Nicholas will not be open on Wednesdays for private prayer over Christmas and the New Year - Starts again on 8th January.

What's happening next week

Sunday 5th	8:30am	Morning Prayer	St James
	10am	All Together Service	St James
	6pm	Holy Communion	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Tuesday 7th	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
Wednesday 8th	2-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
	3-4pm	Open Church & Private Prayer	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Thursday 9th	9:30am	Holy Communion	St James
	10:30am	Bible Book Club	St James

Notices

Please feel free to contact Amanda or one of the Churchwardens at any time

Rev Amanda Digman (Day off usually Friday)	251 Birstall Road	07803 625049 revamandadigman@me.com
Rev Rachael Brind-Surch (Day off usually Friday)		07538034729 rachael@brind-surch.co.uk
Debbie Shephard	41 Roman Road	2673262
Ladi Akinla	14 Palmer Square	07718 738154
Julie Ward	28 Walker Road	2677600
Matthew Harvey	56 Lambourne Road	07957 170920

This weeks information sheet

This weeks information sheet was produced on Thursday 19th December, if you have sent any notices since then, they will not appear until next week. *Sheryl*

12 Days of Christmas Meditations

The Church of England have produced a booklet for post Christmas reflections for the 12 days of Christmas. They cost £1 each with a small profit to the church if we buy in bulk. If you would like one can you let Amanda know.

Bible Book Club - 9th January

The next Bible Book Club will be on Thursday 9th January starting at about 10:30am following the Holy Communion Service. The book we will be studying is Colossians. All are welcome.

Open Church

Effective from 1st January 2025, Saturday Open Church will only be on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. *Ladi*

Emmaus Course - Starts 13th January

Please keep praying that people wanting to do the course will come forward. Posters are now displayed around the village. There are also some fliers at the back of church, so if you know of any people who might be interested, please take some and hand them out. *Clive Garner*

Thank you

I wish to thank everyone who gave and arranged the flowers and also gave donation towards the flowers at Our Lady and St Nicholas Church at Wanlip during 2024, the next flower Rota will be in church for New Year 2025. A Merry Christmas and A happy New Year. *love Marjorie*

Money!

Sorry we have to mention this, but a reminder that the most helpful way for you to give is regularly through the Parish Giving scheme. This scheme is run by the National Church and means we don't have to claim gift - they sort that for us and we receive it monthly, which is less work for the treasurer; no one in the church knows how much you give (currently the treasurer and helper do); it's secure and you can cancel at anytime. We can set up a standing order but this causes a bit more work for the treasurer. You can of course, also give on the plate on Sundays or even use the machine (though this costs us money and we can't claim any gift aid on gifts over £30). You can also use the QR code on the pews and we don't pay for this. (But we can't claim gift aid on this.) *manda*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December

Find old wrapping paper to use for this year's presents.

The Collect for the 1st Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer for the 1st Sunday of Christmas

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Warm Welcome Space

We will then be closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year but open for business as usual on 7th and 8th of January. *Janet*

Comedy Night with Andy Kind – 24th January

There will be a comedy night with Andy Kind at St James on Friday 24th January, starting at 7pm. Tickets £8 per person or £15 for 2 tickets. There is a basket at the back of church for any raffle prizes you would like to donate.

Volunteer vacancies!

We have removed the list of volunteer vacancies but had no volunteers, so please do keep considering what you could help with. *Amanda*

Flowers for special occasions

We are fortunate to have two hugely experienced and professional flower arranging teams at Birstall & Wanlip who are willing to receive requests for flower arrangements to be placed in Church to mark your special occasion. Donations for the cost of the flowers are always welcome, but not always necessary. If you would like the teams to arrange a flower display with your special occasion in mind, please contact Sylvia Simes on 2674206 or email: sylviasimes66@gmail.com (Birstall) and Marjorie Bonshor on 2207964 (Wanlip)

Prayer Chain

If you have an urgent prayer request, please contact Doreen Wilson (2674680) or Gill Pope (2675086) it will be passed round the prayer chain as quickly as possible in strictest confidence.

Recycling Boxes

Thank you to those who are using our recycling station (under a table in the community area at St James) where you can dispose of your used pens, blister packs, toothpaste & brushes, printer ink cartridges, Babybel left overs (you can put the wax outers in; the outer wrappers; and the net bags) Please note: Only Babybel net bags can be put in the Babybel recycling box." Also some types of beauty products packets, (please only put in things you can't recycle elsewhere - in particular, shampoo, bottles etc - they can go in your green bin, so please put them there instead. There is a picture on the side of the box to help you. We do raise funds from the ink cartridges but the others do not gain us money - they do, however, help us to protect God's beautiful creation! You can also recycle phones & stamps for Mothers Union funds. Thank you so much.

Notices for the information sheets & when I'm in the Church Office

I will be in the office on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 9am and 1pm.

If you have a notice you would like putting in the information sheet, can you please email it to either stjames.birstall@btconnect.com and/or sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk before 11am on Thursday. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Lectionary & Theme Readings

Sun 29th 1st Sunday of Christmas

Readings used

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:1-7

Reading 2: Romans 6: 15-23

Gospel : John 8:31-38

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end Psalm 148

Readings used at Wanlip

5th Sunday Special

Mon 30th Theme: I Cor. 8:9-13

Psalm: 113

Reading 1: Isaiah 59:1-15a

Reading 2: John 1:19-28

Tue 31st Theme: Colossians 2:6-23

Psalm: 102

Reading 1: Isaiah 59:15b-end

Reading 2: John 1:29-34

Wed 1st Theme: I Peter 2:13-25

Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

Psalm: 103

Reading 1: Genesis 17:1-13

Reading 2: Romans 2:17-end

Thu 2nd Theme: Galatians 5:13-25

Psalm: 18:1-30

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-12

Reading 2: John 1:35-42

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: I John 2:22-28

Gospel: John 1:19-28

Fri 3rd Theme: Romans 6:15-23

Psalm: 127

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:13-end

Reading 2: John 1:43-end

Sat 4th Theme: 2 Cor. 3:12-18

Psalm: 89:1-37

Reading 1: Isaiah 61

Reading 2: John 2:1-12

Sun 5th Epiphany

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel : Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: Isaiah 61:1-11

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Liberty

Believe that God desires your life to be lived in liberty and dignity. Ask him to free you from desires, worries, habits that tend to imprison you. In your prayers this week try to come to know that real control over your bondages and yourself is found in surrender to God.

For the persecuted church - Egypt

Lord, when we hear about the situation in Egypt, we're reminded how often Your people found hope & worshipped You in that nation. We're reminded how Moses & the Israelites were able to show Your power to Pharaoh, & we remember when Jesus His parents fled to Egypt to escape Herod. The footprint of Your people in Egypt stretches back to the beginning. We pray for Egyptian Christians who continue that faithful presence in their country, that they would be blessed & protected from harm. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Prayer Chain

Our Children: Elliott

What are we thankful for this week:

A Hands that we hold, that support & help us.

For our Community, this week especially for:

Voluntary Workers

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, John Walton, Michael Webb, Tricia Emmett, Ray Folland, Sheila Alcock, Lesley Walton, Tim & Abby Hall & all who care for them.

For those who have Holy Communion at home:

Sheila Skidmore, Monica Lucas, Freda Swards, Margery Orton

For those who have recently died

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Every day - 9pm (or another time!)

Praying for peace in Ukraine & Israel / Palestine. And a different area each day.

Sun; For an end to the New People's Army rebellion in the Philippines, ongoing since 1969.

Mon: For an end to Kurdish-Turkish Conflict in Turkey, Iraq and Syria ongoing since 1984

Tues: For an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in Artsakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia ongoing since 1988.

Wed: For an end to insurgency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan ongoing since 2004.

Thurs: For an end to The Libyan Crisis ongoing since 2011.

Fri: For an end to Sinai insurgency in Egypt ongoing since 2011.

Sat: For an end to the Central African Republic Civil War ongoing since 2012.